

CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following marked up paragraph(s) for the paragraph(s) now appearing in the currently filed specification:

In the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6:

The present invention relates to a crystalline aromatic polyester resin pre-expanded foam particles (or prepuff) which is superior in expansion and fusion during cavity molding. It also relates to a molded foam article and a laminated molded foam article, using the prepuff, wherein its fusion ratio and mechanical strength are particularly improved.

In the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 12:

It has already been described that the generally cylindrical prepuffs are produced by exclusively cutting the foam strand, which is obtained by extrusion foaming, into particles having an arbitrary size. It has been found as a result of the test that the melt tension of the crystalline aromatic polyester resin is controlled to the value within a range of from about 0.7 to 3 g, most preferably, in case where the strand-like foam is produced by extrusion foaming, when measured at 270°C, using an extrusion rate of 30 mm/min (shear rate: 364.8 sec⁻¹) and a haul off rate of 100 mm/min. Conventionally, it is thought that it is necessary that the melt tension must be increased to 18.21 g so as to form the crystalline aromatic polyester *resin* into a sheet or board by extrusion foaming ("DEVELOPMENT OF POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE FOAM", ANTEC '93, collection of summary II, page 1257). Therefore, this discovery is also one of novel arts unexpectedly found out by the present inventors.